

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REMOTE VIRTUAL MINUTES
November 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s.18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Pembroke Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Pembroke website, at <https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/home/news/governors-order-suspendingcertain-provisions-open-meeting-law>.

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Pembroke website an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

REMOTELY PRESENT: Thomas Driscoll (Chair) and Lisa Cullity (Health Agent)

CHAIR DRISCOLL COULD NOT OPEN THE MEETING AT 6:00 PM DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

The Health Agent gave an update of the current COVID situation in Pembroke. Over the last week, Pembroke's numbers dropped and brought Pembroke into the green category. Pembroke is still considered high risk until our numbers stay down for 3 weeks. The numbers this week are rising, 2-3 cases per day and will probably move into the yellow.

There is no evidence of spread in the schools nor the youth sports activities. Halloween did not contribute to any rise in numbers. Pembroke as a whole has done well with social distancing. The next concern is Thanksgiving. Please practice social distancing. Utilize Zoom and social media to connect with distant family.

Seniors should reach out to the Council on Aging for programming that may help them connect with distant family. The FireHouse Pantry has done wonders with food security.

The Health Agent said the DPH is aware some people will still have gatherings on the larger side and she shared tips to make that as safe as possible. Don't share utensils, plates or cups. Eliminate hors d'oeuvre trays. Spread out. Use multiple tables if possible. Wear masks when possible especially if compromised guests. The Agent stated it is not just the old or compromised getting COVID. It hits the 20 and 30 somethings, too.

The Chair asked if the schools plan on returning after Thanksgiving. The Agent said at this time, yes, they do plan to return. It all depends on the case count and where it is spreading.

The Chair asked if there was a benchmark for the children to return to school 4 days per week. At this time there is not. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) cannot set a benchmark as each school district has its own needs and capabilities.

The Chair asked if Pembroke could set its own benchmark. The Agent said there is no magic number. They are tracking clusters in and out of schools.

The Chair asked about Pembroke's plan for vaccine distribution. The Agent said there is a plan in place but the state will be the real driver of procedures.

The Chair stated CVS in Pembroke Center is now conducting COVID tests.

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The Chair signed off at 6:20.